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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Iceland

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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1. The Icelandic Government takes due note of the recommendations made in its second review during the 26th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review ('UPR'), held on 1 November 2016.

2. In accordance with paragraphs 27 and 32 of the annex to the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 16 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 65/281, Iceland provides information in this addendum regarding its position on the recommendations made to it, specifically those in the section on 'recommendations will be examined' in paragraph 117 of the Report of the Working Group on the UPR (see document A/HRC/34/7, paragraphs 117.1 to 117.41).

3. On 4 November 2016, Iceland announced to the Working Group during the adoption of the Draft Report, the endorsement of 112 of the 167 recommendations made. Iceland also stated that 8 of the 112 endorsed recommendations were already implemented or in the process of implementation.

4. Lastly, Iceland stated that a reply would be provided at a later stage with regards to 41 of the recommendations that were left pending, as it was necessary to either consult with the relevant independent institutions, or refer them to the relevant government agencies for their input and advice.

5. Iceland has developed a response to these recommendations. However, in the light of the fact that there was limited time for full consideration across all levels of government, some recommendations have been noted for further consideration, as described below.

6. This addendum provides Iceland's position/responses to the 41 recommendations that were left pending. For the purposes of clarity, the recommendations are listed in the order in which they appear in the Report (A/HRC/34/7, paragraphs 117.1 to 117.41).

	Iceland's response	*Comments*
117.1[1]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities will examine whether to ratify these optional protocols.
117.2[2]		
117.3[3]		
117.4[4]		
117.5[5]		
117.6[6]		
117.7[7]		
117.8[8]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities have accepted to ratify the CPPED and they will examine whether to recognize the competence of the Committee.
117.9[9]	Noted	The content and the obligations of the convention were studied by the National Icelandic ILO committee and compared with Icelandic legislation and collective agreements. At the end of this work it turned out that the representatives of the main organizations of the social partners could not agree on a proposal to move towards a ratification of the instrument.
117.10[10]	Accepted	

117.11[11]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities have accepted to ratify the OPCAT and the CPPED and the CRPD has already been ratified. Moreover, the authorities will examine whether to ratify the Optional Protocols to the CRPD and the CESCR.
117.12[12]	Accepted	
117.13[13]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities will examine whether to withdraw its reservations, see also the response to rec. 117.12.
117.14[14]	Noted	However, the Icelandic Government has agreed to continue the constitutional reform in good cooperation between all political parties which will be based on the previous work.
117.15[15]	Accepted	
117.16[16]	Noted	The exact mandate of such an institution is under consideration.
117.17[17]		
117.18[18]	Accepted	The national action plan will be reviewed and updated and subsequently submitted anew to the Parliament.
117.19[19]		
117.20[20]	Accepted	Iceland is committed to achieving 0.7% ODA/GNI, and this commitment has been accompanied by an increase in official development assistance (ODA), both in terms of volume and as a share of GNI since 2012. In 2016, Iceland's ODA amounted to 5,7 billion ISK, or 0.25% of GNI.
117.21[21]	Accepted	
117.22[22]	Accepted	
117.23[23]	Accepted	
117.24[24]	Accepted	
117.25[25]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities will examine in which ways to strengthen the fight against racism and discrimination.
117.26[26]	Accepted	The Icelandic authorities will continue the fight against racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination by all means available.
117.27[27]	Noted	However, Iceland does accept to complete the work on an anti-discrimination bill. Moreover, victims are allowed to institute criminal proceedings on hate speech in fair trials and due process.
117.28[28]	Accepted	

117.29[29]	Noted	However, it should be noted that hate media speech which creates incitement to hatred and xenophobia is already criminalized in the Media Act and the Icelandic authorities will continue to fight against hate speech and xenophobia.
117.30[30]	Accepted	
117.31[31]	Accepted	
117.32[32]	Accepted	Icelandic legislation and policies promote and protect different kinds of families, including single-parent families and same-sex couples.
117.33[33]	Accepted	The Icelandic authorities will continue the fight against discriminatory practices in the labour market by all means available.
117.34[34]	Accepted	
117.35[35]	Accepted	
117.36[36]	Accepted	
117.37[37]	Accepted	The Icelandic authorities will continue the fight against sexual abuse and trafficking of children by all means available.
117.38[38]	Noted	According to Icelandic law no treatment may be given without the consent of the patient. If the patient is incapable of making a decision, the Act on Legal Competence applies.
117.39[39]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities are currently reviewing its legislation with the view to further implement the CRPD, including to review the conditions for involuntary hospitalization and coercive health care.
117.40[40]	Accepted	
117.41[41]	Noted	However, the Icelandic authorities will examine the issue thoroughly and subsequently decide whether to decriminalize defamation.

Notes

[1] Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

[2] Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);

[3] Widen the scope of international obligations through ratification of international treaties such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania);

[4] Ratify as soon as possible the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

(Germany);

5 **Ratify and effectively implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Czechia);**

6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);**

7 **Conclude its own procedures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (Italy);**

8 **Ratify the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of victims and other States parties (Germany);**

9 **Accelerate the process towards the ratification of the ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);**

10 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Iraq);**

11 **Proceed with the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ecuador);**

12 **Reassess the reasons behind the reservations made to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the aim of withdrawing them (Panama);**

13 **Withdraw its reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sierra Leone);**

14 **Following the parliamentary elections held on 29 October 2016, implement the constitutional reforms approved by the people of Iceland at the 2012 referendum (Haiti);**

15 **Undertake measures to ensure that domestic courts are put in a position to apply the principles stemming from the European Convention on Human Rights (Denmark);**

16 **Establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate and adequate resources, in line with the Paris Principles, including specific mandates to ensure social, economic and cultural rights, and especially the rights of women (Albania);**

17 **Establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate and sufficient resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles, which includes concrete mandates regarding the rights of women and social, economic and cultural rights (Guatemala);**

18 **Accelerate the adoption of the national action plan on human rights which was presented to the Icelandic Parliament (Iraq);**

19 **Adopt the proposed national action plan for human rights (Pakistan);**

20 **Meet its ODA target of 0.7 per cent of its GNP (Bangladesh);**

21 **Launch the process to design and implement the National Action Plan on business and human rights in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Colombia);**

22 **Ensure that policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);**

23 **Improve financial supervisory mechanisms to ensure better control and transparency in order to combat corruption and tax evasion (Norway);**

24 **Consider introducing anti-discriminatory legislation and establish a specialized body to combat racism and discrimination, which could form part of a body with wider objectives in the field of human rights generally (Namibia);**

25 **Establish a special body to combat racism and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, language and religion (Russian Federation);**

26 **Eradicate racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination against foreigners (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

27 **Complete the work on an anti-discrimination bill, and establish a specialized body to combat racism and discrimination and allowing victims to institute criminal proceedings on hate speech in fair trials and due process (Egypt);**

28 **Revise or make amendments to existing legislation and adopt all other necessary measures in order to fight all forms of incitement and agitation to hatred and violence (Sweden);**

29 **Issue a bill that criminalizes defamation of religious prophets and symbols as well as criminalizes hate media speech which creates incitement to hatred and xenophobia (Libya);**

[30] Revise its social benefits programmes for assisting vulnerable families (Bangladesh);
[31] Take further steps to increase the budget for public education and continue to improve school facilities for children (State of Palestine);
[32] Provide protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);
[33] Eradicate discriminatory practices in the labour market that detrimentally affect women (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
[34] Ensure that victims of domestic, gender-based and sexual violence are able to report incidents and press charges without fear of adverse consequences in case of losing in court (United States of America);
[35] Ensure that minors are separated from adults in places of detention (Russian Federation);
[36] Guarantee adequate legal protection and rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence (Russian Federation);
[37] Eradicate the crimes of sexual abuse and trafficking in children (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
[38] Annul the provision of medical treatment without consent as laid down in Icelandic law (Spain);
[39] Take additional measures to fully protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including to preclude involuntary hospitalization and coercive health-care approaches, to prioritize free and fully informed consent for medical treatment and to promote the involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making related to their well-being (Canada);
[40] Review its legislation to ensure that it fully complies with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international standards on refugees and asylum seekers (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
[41] Decriminalize defamation within its civil code in accordance with international standards (Ghana).